

Message Text

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43

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 AID-20 PC-10 DRC-01 ACDA-19 /145 W

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R 231410Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0539

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTO DOMINGO 2108

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MPD LEADERS RELEASED

REF: SD-2056

1. IN A TELEVISED ADDRESS TO THE NATION ON MAY 21 PRESIDENT BALAGUER ANNOUNCED THAT THE GODR WOULD ACCEPT AND ACT UPON THE MAY 20 SUPREME COURT RULING THAT CALLED FOR THE IMMEDIATE RELEASE FROM PRISON OF THE FIVE MOVIMIENTO POPULAR DOMINICANO (MPD) LEADERS, JULIO DE PENA VALDEZ, ING. RAFAEL ANTONIO BAEZ PEREZ, LUIS ELPIDIO SOSA RODRIGUEZ, AGUSTIN MOISES BLANCO GENAO AND EDGAR ERICKSON PICHARDO, WHO HAD COMPLETED THEIR THREE-YEAR SENTENCES IN JANUARY 1974. THE PRESIDENT STATED, HOWEVER, THAT HE WAS HOLDING THE FIVE RESPONSIBLE FOR FUTURE MPD BEHAVIOR AND WARNED THAT TERRORIST ACTS WOULD NOT BE TOLERATED.
 2. THE FIVE MPD LEADERS WERE SUBSEQUENTLY RELEASED ON MAY 22.
 3. PRESTIGIOUS LISTIN DIARIO, IN ITS MAY 22 EDITORIAL, CONGRATULATED PRESIDENT BALAGUER ON HIS ACCEPTANCE OF THE SUPREME COURT RULING AND ASSERTED THAT HE HAD SHOWN REAL COURAGE IN STANDING UP TO THOSE REACTIONARY ELEMENTS OF THE GOVERNMENT WHO HAD ADVOCATED IGNORING THE COURT'S
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RULING, OR RELEASING AND THEN IMMEDIATELY REARRESTING

THE MPRD LEADERS.

4. COMMENT: BY HIS ACCEPTANCE OF THE COURT RULING AND BY HIS EARLIER RELEASE ON MAY 18 OF 20 OTHER "POLITICAL PRISONERS" (REFTEL), BALAGUER, AT LEAST FOR THE MOMENT, HAS SOMEWHAT DEFUSED THIS ISSUE. THERE ARE, HOWEVER, A LARGE NUMBER OF MPD AND OTHER LEFTIST EXTREMIST LEADERS STILL IN PRISON, AND THEIR CONTINUED PRESENCE THERE WILL KEEP THE ISSUE ALIVE AND BEFORE THE PUBLIC.
HURWITCH

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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30 JUN 2005

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